

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A bridging unit ~~for use in bridging apparatus~~ configured to engage with a like bridging unit for traversing a bridging zone, the bridging unit including a stowage housing which in use is being disposed to one side of the bridging zone, a spanning assembly operatively mounted to the stowage housing for movement between a stowed position and a deployed position in which it at least partially traverses the bridging zone in an elevated position, and deployment means operable to cause movement of the spanning assembly between the stowed and deployed positions and including a housing body comprising a box-like structure having opposed peripheral walls, the box-like structure having a compartment therein for receiving a spanning assembly movable between a stowed position in which position the spanning assembly is disposed within the compartment and a deployed position in which position the spanning assembly is disposed outside the box-like structure so as to at least partially traverse the bridging zone in an elevated position, and deployment apparatus operable to cause movement of the spanning assembly between the stowed and deployed positions.

2. **(Cancelled).**

3. **(Currently amended)** A bridging ~~device~~ unit according to claim 1 wherein said housing body includes a ~~box-like structure having peripheral side walls and a top wall[[,]]~~ which forms said top wall forming a platform from which the spanning assembly is accessed when in the deployed position.

4. **(Currently amended)** A bridging ~~device~~ unit according to claim [[3]] 1 including access ~~means~~ apparatus for enabling access to the platform ~~which forms part of the stowage housing,~~ the access ~~means~~ apparatus being operatively mounted to the stowage housing for movement between a stowed position and a deployed position.

5. **(Currently amended)** A bridging ~~device~~ unit according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the spanning assembly includes a path section and a passage section which in the deployed position are disposed in end to end relation and in the stowed position are disposed side by side, the two sections being movable relative to one another between the stowed and deployed positions.

6. **(Currently amended)** A bridging ~~device~~ unit according to claim 5 wherein when the passage and path sections of the spanning assembly are in the stowed position they are disposed ~~generally~~ side by side in a ~~generally~~ substantially upright configuration within the compartment or stowage housing.

7. **(Currently amended)** A bridging ~~device~~ unit according to claim 6 wherein said passage section and said path section are operatively connected together for relative pivotal and linear movement and said passage section is pivotally mounted to said housing the arrangement being such that said passage section is pivotally movable relative to the housing from the stowed to the deployed positions and thereafter said path section is both pivotally and linearly moved relative to the passage section so as to adopt its deployed position in which it is arranged generally end to end with respect to the passage section.

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Currently amended)** Bridging apparatus including two bridging units according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, ~~the bridging units engaged to one another at outer ends of the spanning assembly the stowage housing of each unit being disposed on respective opposite sides of the bridging zone, the arrangement being such that when the spanning assembly of each unit are the deployed position they are operatively connected to one another.~~

10. **(New)** A bridging unit in accordance with claim 1 wherein the spanning assembly includes a plurality of spanning members or beams configured to deploy telescopically or extensibly into the deployed position in an elevated position.

11. **(New)** A bridging unit in accordance with claim 1 wherein a handrail is operatively connected to the spanning assembly, the handrail configured to move between a parked position adjacent the spinning assembly, and an erect position in which position the handrail is spaced from the spanning assembly for gripping by users of the bridging unit.

12. **(New)** A bridging unit in accordance with claim 1 wherein a cover is provided to cover the spanning assembly when in the deployed position.

13. **(New)** A bridging unit in accordance with claim 12 wherein the cover is a perforated screen to reduce wind loading.

14. **(New)** A bridging unit in accordance with claim 1 wherein the deployment apparatus includes an electric motor to deploy the spanning assembly.

15. **(New)** A bridging unit in accordance with claim 1 wherein the deployment apparatus includes hydraulic arms to facilitate deployment of the spanning assembly.

16. **(New)** A bridging unit in accordance with claim 1 wherein a power supply is provided to facilitate deployment of the spanning assembly.

17. **(New)** A bridging unit in accordance with claim 1 wherein a transfer apparatus is provided to transfer a person along or adjacent the spanning assembly.

18. **(New)** A bridging unit in accordance with claim 17 wherein the transfer apparatus includes a capsule driven by a hydraulic arm.

19. **(New)** A bridging unit in accordance with claim 1 wherein an anchor is provided to anchor the storage housing to the ground.

Applicant : John Francis Boulton
Serial No. : 10/519,101
Filed : August 18, 2005
Page : 7 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: 15309.0001

20. **(New)** A bridging unit in accordance with claim 1 wherein the storage housing is configured to be buried in the ground.